

French advance into the neutral zone has dealt a damaging blow to the Council, whatever may be the immediate outcome, and in the opinion of many competent observers here, has emphasized the absurdity of the idea underlying the league, that a nation which believes its life to be at stake can be restrained by any such agency.

The French were particularly anxious to have American approval of their action in advancing into the neutral zone. Premier Millerand's conversation yesterday with Hugh C. Wallace, American Ambassador here, is regarded as significant of this. Should the United States protest against the French action, it is asserted in French circles that the Germans would be encouraged to further treaty violations.

Italian public sentiment appears to be divided on the French policy, a large section of their press criticizing the French and calling the move "Foch militarism."

ACTION IS UPHELD BY FRENCH PREMIER

ALLIES CONSULTED AND GERMAN BROKE PROMISE.

PARIS, April 7.—A note prepared by Premier Millerand was read to the Ambassadors to-day and then delivered to the German Charge d'Affaires, Wilhelm von Meyer, in which the Premier declared that France had taken great care to inform and consult with the Allies before occupying the Rhine cities. The text of the note follows:

"Before occupying Frankfurt, Darmstadt and other cities, the French Government took great care, as it was bound to do, to inform and consult with the Allies. Many times since the treaty has come into force France has proved its desire to maintain close cooperation with the Allies by working its point of view and accepting theirs."

"France was forced to act when faced not only by direct violation of the general stipulations of the Versailles treaty concerning all the Allies, especially France, owing to its geographical position, but also by the failure of Germany to keep the promise given to the Premier personally by a representative of the German Government in conversations which were engaged in at the request of the latter."

"On March 25 the French Premier declared from the tribune of the Chamber of Deputies that France, which was still awaiting the beginning of the realization of the most urgent reparations, could not delay indefinitely making decisions which were imperative. On March 28 Dr. Goepfert informed the French Government that the German Government had not considered in any way the possibility of sending additional troops to the Ruhr valley without the authorization of the French Government."

PERMISSION REFUSED.

"On April 3 Premier Millerand confirmed to the German Charge d'Affaires the decision that the French Government could not, as far as it was concerned, give such authorization unless French troops should be stationed at Frankfurt, Darmstadt, Homburg, Hanau and Dieburg."

"On April 3 Dr. Goepfert admitted that Reichswehr troops, superior to the French, had penetrated the Ruhr, and asked in the name of the German Government that the formal authorization necessary to that effect be given to the German Government."

"The same day at Berlin Under Secretary of State von Haniel informed Gen. Barthelmy, who replaced Gen. Nollet, that the German Government had given entire freedom of action to the Commissioner Severing concerning the use of troops concentrated for the purpose of operations in the Ruhr Valley and assumed the responsibility for their action in the neutral zone."

"The French Government immediately informed its allies of this communication, confirmed by its own information, calling attention to the fact that the German Government was violating Article 44 of the treaty—a violation constituting a casus belli—and expressing the hope that the Allied Governments would recognize the necessity of immediate action and would lend assistance to France in an effective manner for the execution of military measures which could not be avoided or deferred."

"It was not the first time the French Government had warned its allies of this necessity. As early as March 23 the French Government brought the proposition of occupying Frankfurt and other cities before the Council in London, which expressed the opinion on March 25 that the moment was not timely."

Authorization Asked and Refused.
"The German Government addressed itself directly to the French Government to obtain authorization to send troops to the Ruhr Valley. The French Government had no reason to authorize such an infringement of the treaty, inasmuch as its own information concurred with that of its allies in deciding that the military occupation of the Ruhr was useless and dangerous."

"The measure was taken with the initiative in that operation must be attributed to the German military party. It was Kapp's Government which took the initiative. It was the military party, which, despite the strong objections brought forward in the German Government itself against the projected intervention, affirmed the impossibility of reestablishing order without additional troops in the Ruhr."

"France was thus faced with a measure which, in the unanimous opinion of the Allies, could not be executed without previous authorization, which was not justified by the circumstances and which the German Government had taken a formal engagement toward France never to attempt without its authorization."

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Action in General Interest.
"The French Government thus acted in the general interest, as well as in the interest of France. It was necessary that it should take, in accordance with the Treaty of Versailles, a measure indispensable to its own security. There is no need to recall that it is resolved."

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to evacuate the occupied cities as soon as the German troops have completely quit the Ruhr.

"The French Government's attitude is justified by the action of the German Government. It does not modify, however, its disposition toward Germany, with which it hopes to enter into commercial relations on a basis of economic cooperation, from which the European situation can only benefit."

"France in taking measures for the occupation of the Ruhr is not inspired by hostile thought toward Germany and reiterates the assurance that it wishes to renew with Germany as soon as possible normal relations on a basis of economic cooperation. It expresses its readiness to receive favorably any serious proposal which might come from Germany in view of the fact that under certain circumstances France might even take the initiative in that direction."

GERMANY PROTESTS ACTION BY FRANCE

ASSERTS SUCH STEPS NEEDED APPROVAL OF ALL ALLIES.

BERLIN, April 7.—Many rumors are current in Berlin to the effect that the United States is addressing a note to France demanding the withdrawal of the French forces from Frankfurt.

It is considered not unlikely that the German Government is facing a crisis by reason of the concerted action of organized labor and both wings of the Social Democracy. The ultimatum to the Government, which is supposed to have been inspired by Herr Legien, came as a great surprise. The Majority Socialist leaders in the Cabinet being wholly uninformed with regard to it.

The action taken at the present moment contributes to the gravity of the situation in which the coalition finds itself as a result of French occupation of German cities.

A special session of the National Assembly will be held Saturday. The German Charge d'Affaires in Paris was instructed to hand the French Government a note protesting against the French occupation of Frankfurt and other territory on the right bank of the Rhine. The note, after referring to the contents of the French note of April 3 notifying Germany that the occupation of the Ruhr had been ordered, asserts that the occupation of the towns mentioned in the French communication occurred before the note was presented to the German Government.

"We must in the name of justice, reason and humanity," the German note continues, "make the sharpest protest against the action of the French army. It cannot possibly have been the intention of the French Government to prevent Germany from restoring order as quickly as possible in the part of its territory most seriously disturbed by the hands of robbers."

The note points out that alleged violations of the treaty must, under the terms of that instrument, be redressed by the signatories on the allied side, and not by a single one, acting independently.

"The idea that the despatch of troops to the region could in any way involve a menace to France is so absurd that it does not require to be refuted," the note continues, "and it may therefore be maintained with the fullest conviction on Germany's part that there is here no intentional violation of the peace treaty which could make the German Government responsible in the meaning of the peace treaty. Even if such a violation had been committed, the military action of violence now committed by the French Government would not be justified."

The note further contends that under the League of Nations, which is an integral part of the peace treaty, the attempt ought first to have been made to solve such a dispute by international arbitration.

A proclamation addressed by the German Government to the inhabitants of the towns occupied by the French says: "Less than 14,000 troops have been collected in the Ruhr district, or almost the exact number permitted by the agreement with the Entente. France has regarded as a reason for the state of peace to occupy flourishing German towns as a reprisal. The world's peace has never been more monstrously played with than it has been just now by France."

"It is that hard-hearted opponent which alone is responsible for making you the victim of this Shylock policy. The Imperial Government will do everything it can to shorten your period of suffering. It will not let Germany be shattered in this cunningly devised fashion."

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REDS FLEE ESSEN, LAST STRONGHOLD

OVERWHELMED BY REICHSWEHR IN SUBURBS, MANY SURRENDER AT CITY HALL.

REIGN OF LOOTING ENDS

OCCUPATION OF DUESSELDORF BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS IS EXPECTED TO-DAY.

By the Associated Press.

ESSEN, April 7.—The last important Red centre fell into the hands of the Government troops yesterday afternoon after severe fighting in the suburbs. The Reds made their last stand on the canal, but when the Reichswehr charged on both flanks the Reds broke and fled. Some of them surrendered their arms at the City Hall during the retreat, while others threw them away.

Marcus, the notorious murderer of Munich hostages, was killed. The Reds have started breaking up into small marauding parties.

Demolition fighting is still in progress in the rural communities in the neighborhood of Essen, where the material damage is said to be considerable. Government troops have occupied Witten, Gelsenkirchen and Schwelm.

During the last few days the Red rule in Essen degenerated into indiscriminate looting. More details now are available of the earlier atrocities, notably the cold blooded murder of a lieutenant and twenty men who hoisted a white flag after tokenically defending the pumping station.

According to the Lokal Anzeiger the Russian Bolsheviks Radok and Levine attended the Red Central Council at Dortmund Monday and exhorted the Reds to fight to the bitter end, the result being wholesale looting of villages, where the workmen fiercely turned upon the Reds. Many persons on both sides were killed or wounded.

The losses of the Reichswehr up to Sunday are given as 170 killed, 348 wounded and 123 missing.

According to Die Freiheit, the workmen at Elberfeld have organized armed guards against the marauding Red bands. Hundreds of the disintegrating Red army, fearing the "white terror," took refuge in the British occupied zone, where they were disarmed.

Die Freiheit also complains that several executions by the Reichswehr still continue, notwithstanding the agreement to the contrary.

Pierce fighting took place in the Town Hall Square at Bochum, when, as the Reichswehr approached, the citizens took the executives of the Red Guard prisoner, says a despatch to the Mitton am Zeitung.

Spartanists plundered the farms in the vicinity of Bochum, slaughtered cattle and invaded Castle Besterlo, where the Countess of that name was alone. She was ill-treated and forced to cook and serve meals to the invaders. Among them were a number of low-class women, who are described as having been "veritable furies" and who are said to have demolished furniture and art works.

Before retreating Dortmund the Reds, according to the same source, took from the branch of the Reichsbank one million marks. They also appropriated 750,000 marks from private persons, and also took fifty foreign passports.

MINES AT ESSEN

SAVED BY GUARDS

Red Army Commander Ordered Them Blown Up.

THE HAGUE, April 7.—The New York Herald, describing the evacuation of Essen by the Reds, says: "The Red army commander ordered that the mines be blown up. The mine guards succeeded in repelling the Reds, although great damage was done to the mines."

The occupation of the Mayence district was a violation of the peace treaty, says The Hague Vredeland, in an article declaring the German action in the Ruhr district likewise was contrary to the treaty of Versailles.

"The president of the Peace Conference," says this newspaper, "should have informed all the Allies of the note to Germany in order that they might have considered common steps. But the president of the conference, who at the same time is Premier of France, took action as Premier. Anticipating reproaches from Great Britain, and particularly from the United States, both the French Government and the French press speak about the monstrous breach of the treaty and the danger to France."

Nobody, the Vredeland adds, really believes the German troops are a danger to France.

GERMANY ORDERED TO REDUCE ARMY

MUST CUT IT TO 200,000 MEN BY APRIL 10.

By the Associated Press.

BERLIN, April 7.—Gen. Nollet, president of the Interallied Commission of Control, announces that the allied Powers have fixed April 10 as the latest limit for the completion of the reduction of the German army to 200,000. He complains, in a note to the German Government, that civil guard formations in Germany frequently engage in military exercises contrary to the stipulations of the peace treaty, and these can therefore be no longer permitted.

Recent estimates of the number of German troops still under arms have ranged from 300,000 to 400,000 men.

RHINELAND REPUBLIC MAY BE PROCLAIMED

Berlin Also Hears of Military Plot in Bavaria.

By the Associated Press.

BERLIN, April 7.—The newspapers say that news received from all parts of the Rhine provinces indicates that the proclamation of a Rhine republic is imminent.

A great military conspiracy, which was to have been a Bavarian parallel to the recent Berlin revolution, has been discovered in Munich, it was announced to-day.

Part of the plan was that Gen. Ludendorff be made dictator over Bavaria and Dr. Heim of the Bavarian Separatists, a sort of civil and economic dictator.

Loughlin recently returned to Ireland from a visit to Germany. A letter addressed to Baron Lewis von Horst at Berlin on March 3 and signed with Loughlin's name has come to the notice of the Irish police, who interpret the letter as proof of a projected uprising and of German implications. This letter, which is couched in the language of an ordinary business communication, contains the following:

"I have put the right people here in possession of the details you gave me on various matters, and think you may be prepared for eventualities. Please write me at once when you get information from Hamburg regarding ships. This is most important and must not be overlooked, as we are now in a position to come to business."

"If you come across any Government electric cable (interpreted by the police as code for machine guns and artillery) would you be able to let me have samples and details of voltage, etc. You will understand what I mean."

"The Dublin corporation is very short of supplies, and if the staff was suitable would be prepared to buy in large quantities. I am sending this letter via Madam, as I believe it is safer. When you write to me enclose your letter in a large envelope. That is, let there be no indication on the outside as to the source from whence it comes."

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BRITISH BUY MILLION TONS OF NITRATE

\$100,000,000 Involved in Negotiations With Chile.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun and New York Herald.

LONDON, April 7.—Negotiations are proceeding in London in connection with a deal for 1,000,000 tons of nitrate, valued at \$100,000,000.

The principals are said to be the Association of Producers Salitres de Chile and Anthony Gibbs Sons, Liverpool, London. The latter refuse to confirm or deny the report.

ARMS FOR VIENNA CLAIMED BY ITALY

Czechs Hold Up 29 Cars of 'Machinery' for Cracow.

By the Associated Press.

VIENNA, April 7.—Twenty-nine cars, supposed to contain machinery, bound from Vienna to Cracow, which were being conveyed by the military police, were stopped by Czechs at Mahrtsch-Ostrow, Moravia. The cars were found to contain hand grenades and other munitions.

Italian officers appeared and claimed the contents of the cars as Italian property, but the train is being held at the border pending instructions from Prague.

Friends Give Princeton \$770,638.

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